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PATENT #21
830nd
10/9/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Roberts, et al.
Application No. : 09/329,606
Filed : June 10, 1999
Title : **Method and Apparatus For Providing Network Services**
Group/Unit : 2142
Examiner : B. Prieto
Reference : 0007534-0001

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Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents
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SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

10 Commissioner:

In reply to the Interview Summary dated July 28, 2003 (Paper No. 19), Applicant hereby submits a Substance of Interview as required by MPEP 713.04 to record the substance of the recent telephonic interview.

15 Applicant wishes to correct item (3) of the participant list, which should be "Chan, D (Reg. 51,540)."

Below is a substance of the interview.

A telephone interview was conducted between the Examiner and the applicant and the applicant's representatives on July 23, 2003. The complete list of participants is given in the
20 Summary of Interview (paper No. 19). Applicant stated that discussion of major issues in the case would expedite its prosecution, as the case had received three rejections already. A formal reply to the last office action was submitted on June 10, 2003. In particular, claims 1 and 11 were discussed.

With regard to claim 1, applicant highlighted the new amendments submitted in the June
25 10, 2003 reply that would overcome prior art Schneck and Perkowski. In particular, a new limitation of claim 1, "directory of identifiers and metadata" distinguishes the present invention over the Schneck reference. Applicant pointed out that in Schneck, metadata in map 212 (col. 3/lines 57-60) and identifiers in directory 104 (col. 4/lines 23-33, 43-63, col. 3/lines 37-38) are two separate entities and are accessed separately. Fig. 2 of Schneck shows that they are distinct.
30 Fig. 3 of Schneck teaches that accesses to directory (104) and map (212) occur in two different

steps (302 and 304) (col. 5 lines 1-7). Schneck does not contain any teaching to combine them for single location storage, as is the case with the directory of the present invention.

Applicant also pointed out that another newly added limitation of claim 1, "engine for receiving requests ..." now particularly points out the way the driver interfaces with the network services in the present invention. The relationship among the engine, the session, the directory, the identifiers, and the metadata obtained from said directory is now specified, thus distinguishing the present invention over Schneck. Applicant also pointed out that Schneck does not teach the session feature. Inventor Roberts gave an overview of the interaction among the components in the present invention and how they distinguish over the prior art.

The Examiner noted these arguments and indicated further consideration will be needed.

Applicant also highlighted the definition of the term "network service" in the Perkowski reference, as it has been an unresolved issue in the last two office actions. Applicant stressed the arguments that the term "service", as used in Perkowski, refers to physical services (i.e. delivered and performed by humans) (col. 8 line 46 – col. 9 line 13). The cited reference clearly states that the "services" in question have UPC numbers that are commonly used to identify physical products and services. Applicant also noted that the term "service" in Perkowski should be read with consistency and not be interpreted as a "network service" in some instances and a type of physical service in others.

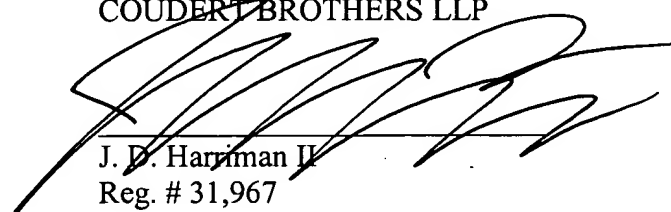
Applicants stated that the claims, as amended, would overcome this point of contention.

The Examiner noted these arguments but no agreement was reached in regard to this issue. Finally, the Examiner indicated that since substantial amendments were made (claims 21-105 were added), further consideration of the claims will be necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/8/03


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